

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert at page 13, before line 25, the following paragraph:

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides a toner, comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin comprising:

an urea-modified polyester resin; and

a second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

a colorant;

a release agent; and

a particulate material which is present in at least a surface portion of the toner particles while embedded into the surface portion,

wherein the binder resin has a glass transition temperature not lower than 35°C and lower than 55°C, and wherein the particulate material has an average particle diameter of from 0.002 to 0.2 times that of the toner particles;

wherein the particulate material comprises a particulate resin having a glass transition temperature of from 55 to 100°C;

wherein the particulate resin is crosslinked using a crosslinking agent;

wherein the binder resin comprises tetrahydrofuran-insoluble components in an amount of from 2 to 30 % by weight; and

wherein the toner particles are prepared by a method comprising dissolving or dispersing a toner composition, comprising

(i) at least a polyester prepolymer (A) having an isocyanate group, and being capable of reacting with an active hydrogen;

(ii) an amine (B) as a compound having an active hydrogen,

(iii) said second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

(iv) said colorant, and

(v) said release agent, in an organic solvent, to obtain an oil phase liquid; dispersing the oil phase liquid in an aqueous medium comprising said particulate material while subjecting the polyester prepolymer (A) to an addition polymerization reaction using said compound having said active hydrogen as a cross-linking agent, extending agent or both, to prepare said urea-modified polyester resin and to prepare a dispersion;

removing at least the organic solvent from the dispersion to prepare the toner particles comprising the binder resin;

washing the toner particles; and

drying the toner particles.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides for a toner, comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin comprising:

an urea-modified polyester resin; and

a second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

a colorant;

a release agent; and

a particulate material which is present in at least a surface portion of the toner particles while embedded into the surface portion,

wherein the binder resin has a glass transition temperature not lower than 35°C and lower than 55°C;

wherein the particulate material has an average particle diameter of from 0.002 to 0.2 times that of the toner particles;

wherein the particulate material comprises a particulate resin having a glass transition temperature of from 55 to 100°C;

wherein the particulate resin is crosslinked using a crosslinking agent;

wherein the binder resin comprises tetrahydrofuran-insoluble components in an amount of from 1 to 30 % by weight based on total weight of the binder resin; and wherein the toner particles are prepared by a method comprising

dissolving or dispersing a toner composition, comprising

(i) at least a polyester prepolymer (A) having an isocyanate group, and being capable of reacting with an active hydrogen;

(ii) an amine (B) as a compound having an active hydrogen,

(iii) said second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

(iv) said colorant, and

(v) said release agent, in an organic solvent, to obtain an oil phase liquid;

dispersing the oil phase liquid in an aqueous medium comprising said particulate material while subjecting the polyester prepolymer (A) to an addition polymerization reaction using said compound having said active hydrogen as a cross-linking agent, extending agent or both, to prepare said urea-modified polyester resin and to prepare a dispersion;

removing at least the organic solvent from the dispersion to prepare the toner particles comprising the binder resin;

washing the toner particles; and

drying the toner particles.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides for a method for manufacturing a toner comprising toner particles, comprising:

dissolving or dispersing a toner composition, comprising

(i) at least a polyester prepolymer (A) having an isocyanate group, and being

capable of reacting with an active hydrogen;

(ii) an amine (B) as a compound having an active hydrogen,

(iii) a second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

(iv) a colorant, and

(v) a release agent, in an organic solvent, to obtain an oil phase liquid;

dispersing the oil phase liquid in an aqueous medium comprising a particulate material while subjecting the polyester prepolymer (A) to an addition polymerization reaction using said compound having said active hydrogen as a cross-linking agent, extending agent or both, to prepare a urea-modified polyester resin and to prepare a dispersion;

removing at least the organic solvent from the dispersion to prepare the toner particles comprising a binder resin which comprises said urea-modified polyester resin and said second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000;

washing the toner particles; and

drying the toner particles; thereby obtaining the toner comprising said toner particles comprising:

said binder resin comprising:

the urea-modified polyester resin; and

the second resin having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,000 to 10,000,

the colorant;

the release agent; and

the particulate material which is present in at least a surface portion of the toner particles while embedded into the surface portion,

wherein the binder resin has a glass transition temperature not lower than 35°C and lower than 55°C;

wherein the particulate material has an average particle diameter of from 0.002 to 0.2 times that of the toner particles;

wherein the particulate material comprises a particulate resin having a glass transition temperature of from 55 to 100°C;

wherein the particulate resin is crosslinked using a crosslinking agent; and

wherein the binder resin comprises tetrahydrofuran-insoluble components in an amount of from 2 to 30 % by weight.